

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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DRAFTED BY EA/ K: DLRANARD: LM

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TO AMEMBASSY BERN

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055776

E. O. 1162: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DE, NO, IC, KN, SW, SZ

SUBJECT: SWEDISH RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

1. SWISS MINISTER EXCHAQUET CAME IN TO DEPARTMENT MARCH 26 SPECIFICALLY TO ASK RANARD, COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR KOREA, DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO SWEDISH DECISION TO RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA. HE SEEMED ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN IMPLICATIONS FOR NNSC.

2. RANARD SAID WE WERE AWARE OF SWEDISH INTENTION, AND REGRETTED HER DECISION, PARTICULARLY INASMUCH AS COMMUNIST SIDE, INCLUDING BOTH THEIR MEMBERS ON NNSC, SHOWED NO INCLINATION WHATSOEVER TO PROVIDE SIMILAR RECOGNITION TO THE ROK. WE HAVE NOTED THAT NORTH KOREA IS STALLING IN
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THE BILATERAL TALKS, HAS RETURNED TO A MORE IMPLACABLE LINE, AND EVEN SEEMS TO HAVE GONE OUT OF THE WAY TO PROVOKE A DMZ INCIDENT. NORTH'S REVERSION TO ARROGANCE MOST LIKELY IS TIED IN WITH CONCLUSION SHE APPEARS TO BE DRAWING THAT TREND IN RECOGNITION IS NOW MOVING IN HER FAVOR. SWEDISH ACTION THUS NOT CONTRIBUTING TO PROCLAIMED GOAL OF DETENTE ON KOREAN PENINSULA, BUT RATHER TO DISCORD. IN OUR JUDGMENT THOSE COUNTRIES NOT NOW RECOGNIZING NORTH KOREA SHOULD WAIT BEFORE TAKING ACTION WHICH COULD HAVE FURTHER UNSETTLING IMPACT ON TALKS. NOW THAT SWEDEN HAS DECIDED MOVE UNILATERALLY, HOWEVER, WE WOULD HOPE SHE WOULD DOUBLE HER EFFORTS TO MOVE CZECHS AND POLES TO ACCORD RECOGNITION TO SOUTH.

3. EXCHAQUET STATED SWITZERLAND EARLIER WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER RECOGNITION OF NORTH AS PART OF BALANCED NNSC APPROACH TO BOTH SIDES. IT SEES DANGERS IN SWEDISH UNILATERAL ACTION AND HAS NO INTENTION AT PRESENT OF RECOGNIZING PYONGYANG. MOREOVER, SWITZERLAND WAS PREPARED TO STAY ON IN NNSC TO AT LEAST KEEP SOME SORT OF EQUILIBRIUM NOW THAT STOCKHOLM WAS MOVING TOWARD RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. EXCHAQUET ASKED WHETHER DEPARTMENT STILL BELIEVED NNSC WAS WORTH RETAINING, AS WE HAD TOLD SWISS ON PREVIOUS OCCASION WHEN THEY HAD QUERIED OUR VIEW. RANARD SAID THAT UNTIL SOME MORE FORMAL RESOLUTION OF KOREAN PROBLEM IS FOUND, WE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE NNSC WORTH KEEPING AND THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES SWISS MEMBERSHIP CONTINUED TO MAKE SENSE. ROGERS

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